



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Three Rivers, CA 93271

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: June 27, 2014

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Draft Wilderness Stewardship Plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Available for Public Review and Comment; Public Meetings Scheduled

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA-- The National Park Service (NPS) has opened the public comment period for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan / Draft Environmental Impact Statement (WSP/DEIS) for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. **All public comments must be received by August 25, 2014.** The NPS will use the framework established in the final version of this document to preserve wilderness character, provide opportunities for and encourage public use and enjoyment of the wilderness, and improve conditions in areas where there may be unacceptable levels of impacts on wilderness character. More information, including the WSP/DEIS are available on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sekiwild> or by calling Nancy Hendricks, environmental protection specialist, at (559) 565-3102. A CD-version of the document is available, too.

Interested parties are encouraged to make comments about the WSP/DEIS on the PEPC website. Electronic comments will only be accepted through this website. Comments will also be accepted in writing (by hand-delivery, mail, or fax). To submit written comments by letter, you may send them by U.S. Postal Service or other mail delivery service, or hand-deliver your comments to Superintendent, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, *Attn: WSP/DEIS*, 47050 Generals Highway, Three Rivers, CA 93271. In addition, faxed comments will be accepted at (559) 565-4202. Anonymous comments will not be considered. To learn more about the WSP, the public is invited to attend informational meetings at:

July 23, 2014

6-9 p.m.

Richard Trudeau Training Center
11500 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94605

July 24, 2014

6-9 p.m.

Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fairgrounds
Tallman Pavilion
Bishop, CA 93514

July 28, 2014

6-9 p.m.

Visalia Marriott Hotel
300 South Court Street
Visalia, CA 93291

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The meetings will begin with an open house at 6 p.m. with posters and information about the alternatives. A formal presentation will occur at 7 p.m. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about the plan, to find out how to provide comments on the plan, and to ask questions and discuss the plan with park staff.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Anonymous comments will not be considered.

Printed versions of the document may be found at the parks' visitor centers in Sequoia National Park: Foothills Visitor Center, Mineral King, Giant Forest Museum, and Lodgepole; at the parks' visitor centers in Kings Canyon National Park at Grant Grove and Cedar Grove; and at the following area libraries:

- **Clovis Regional Library**
- **Fresno County Libraries:** Bear Mountain Branch; Central Branch; Fowler Branch; Kingsburg Branch; Orange Cove Branch; Parlier Branch; Reedley Branch; Sanger Branch; Selma Branch; Sunnyside Branch
- **Kern County Libraries:** Bakersfield – Beale Memorial Library
- **Inyo County Libraries:** Big Pine Branch; Lone Pine Branch; Bishop Branch
- **Tulare County Libraries:** Dinuba Branch; Exeter Branch; Lindsay Branch; Three Rivers Branch; Visalia Branch; Porterville Public Library
- **Merced County Libraries:** Merced Library

Background Information:

The parks' total designated wilderness is now 808,078 acres — approximately 93.3% of the total park acreage of 865,964. In addition, because the southern end of the Hockett Plateau (approximately 29,500 acres) remains proposed wilderness, it is managed as wilderness, according to law (PL 111-11) and NPS policy. The parks also contain several designated potential wilderness additions (DPWA), including the area around the Pear Lake Ski Hut and Bearpaw Meadow High Sierra Camp. Altogether, designated and proposed wilderness areas comprise nearly 97% of the total acreage of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

– NPS –

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts nearly 1.48 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Info: www.nps.gov/seki or 559-565-3341.